

Keeping children out of trouble

Blaise's story



Over 10 percent of 16 to 18 year-olds are not in education, employment or training.

Barnardo's runs 27 projects across the UK to help young people gain the skills to find a job.

Three years ago Blaise Magee had dropped out of college and was in trouble. 'I was doing drugs and stuff,' Blaise recalls. 'I was unemployed and I wasn't sure what to do.'

Blaise's life changed when a friend recommended Dr B's, a Barnardo's project in Belfast which trains young people with learning disabilities or support needs, to gain qualifications in catering.

Despite never having cooked before, Blaise had a natural talent and achieved his level 1 NVQ in catering. He went on to work at London's fashionable L'Escargot restaurant and now works at Belfast's only five-star hotel, The Merchant.

'If it wasn't for Dr B's I would probably be in prison – or dead,' says Blaise. 'Barnardo's really does change people's lives.'

How the money you raise will help Barnardo's?

For every **£1** you raise for Barnardo's, **94p** goes directly to helping the vulnerable children, young people and their families who we work with*.

£1,000 would help pay for two weeks initial training at Dr B's for a young person like Blaise and to help restock with a full set of uniforms. This equipment is a basic requirement of a restaurant but it also helps the young people feel and fit into a professional environment, which is vital for their development.

*If property development and retail shop costs are excluded – which are self financing.